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Where is Thy Brother?

SARAH D. LA FETRA.

On the ever open doors of our beneficent Hope and Help Mission, braving the bleak wind and weather, there came, one afternoon, a woman scantily clad, without shawl or wrap of any kind, carrying on one arm a half-dressed baby and on the other some half-made portions of ladies' dresses. She had narrowly escaped the brutal treatment of her husband, who crazed and infuriated by drink, had threatened her life. The tenderness of the mother was indicated by the look on her face as she handed to us her child, and her worthiness and thrift by the pathetic manner in which she held on to the goods intrusted to her care, by which she might earn the means to keep herself and child from starvation. I cannot forget the trustful, cheery face of that baby, as we gave him his bath, clothed him in soft, warm garments, and gave him the food, which he took with such relish and satisfaction. Poor, helpless child! Poor heart-broken mother! Robbed of love and home and happiness by the accursed drink!

The man was appropriately sent to the Government Asylum for the Insane—an institution which continuously shelters, at public expense, sixteen hundred or more patients—probably none of whom are more pitiful than those sent there through strong drink. And who is responsible? Can you say, "Not I?"

Oh, Christian voter, sitting in your cushioned pew, so far removed from temptation and the ballot-box, in your devotions, do you feel that the drink curse can never touch you nor yours? If it be true, as the Scriptures declares, that "He that biddeth him God-speed is partaker of his evil deeds," and if God is infinite in justice, will He not call to strict account the man who voluntarily makes the saloon as legal as the preaching of the blessed Gospel in his own church?

"Oh, Cain, where is thy brother?" His blood crieth up from the ground unto thee! And the pitiful appeal of outraged womanhood and children, yea, and even worse than widowhood comes up daily before the throne for vengeance. God pity us, and grant to this great nation a Christian Citizenship which will, at the ballot-box, make unlawful this gigantic crime of crimes.

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